	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/936,610	MATSUSHIMA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kambiz Abdi	3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *18 August 2005*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *36-43,45-53 and 55*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date *9/14/04 & 8/18/05*

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Prior office actions are incorporated in this office action by reference.

-   Claims 1-35, 44 and 54 have been canceled.

-   Claims 36, 45-46 and 55 have been amended.

-   Claims 36-43, 45-53 and 55 have been allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be

unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure

consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with attorney Jonathan R.

Bowser on November 1, 2005 via a telephone conversation and subsequent e-mail dated November 9,

2005.

The examiner under agreement by the attorney representing the applicant has amended claims

36, 45-46 and 55.

The claims in the application has been amended as follow:

1-35.   (Cancelled)

36.   (Currently Amended) A service providing method of providing a current user of a first apparatus
with each service provided by a plurality of other apparatuses via a network, wherein the first apparatus is
able to communicate with each of the plurality of other apparatuses via the network and is locally
connectable to a recording medium from among recording media that are uniquely assigned to users of
the first apparatus, each recording medium has a media identifier as a unique identifier recorded thereon
and is transportable, and each recording medium includes an area for storing encrypted unique
information which is unique information that has been encrypted, said service providing method
comprising:

a service requesting operation of the first apparatus requesting a second apparatus to provide a
service desired by the current user, the second apparatus being one of the plurality of other apparatuses;

a first determining operation of the first apparatus determining whether a recording medium of the
current user is locally connected to the first apparatus;

a second determining operation of the first apparatus determining whether a recording medium of the current user is locally connected to the first apparatus and stores encrypted unique information;

a reading operation of, ~~if a recording medium of the current user is locally connected to the first apparatus,~~ the second apparatus reading the media identifier in the ~~locally connected~~ recording medium locally connected to the first apparatus via the first apparatus and the network when the first apparatus determines in said first determining operation that the recording medium is locally connected thereto, and ~~if a recording medium of the current user is locally connected to the first apparatus and stores encrypted unique information,~~ the second apparatus reading the encrypted unique information in the ~~locally connected~~ recording medium locally connected to the first apparatus via the first apparatus and the network when the first apparatus determines in said second determining operation that the recording medium is locally connected thereto and stores the encrypted unique information; and

a service providing operation of the second apparatus (i) generating a decryption key based on the media identifier read in said reading operation, (ii) generating unique information by decrypting the encrypted unique information read in said reading operation by using the generated decryption key, (iii) customizing the desired service according to the generated unique information, and (iv) transmitting the customized service to the first apparatus~~.~~, wherein:

the encrypted unique information stored in each recording medium is encrypted user information that is inherent to a user assigned the recording medium and has been encrypted; and

said service providing operation includes

a user password receiving operation of the second apparatus receiving a user password from the current user via the first apparatus,

a decryption key generating operation of the second apparatus generating a decryption key based on read media identifier read in said reading operation and the user password received in said user password receiving operation,

a decryption operation of the second apparatus decrypting the encrypted user information that has been read in said reading operation by using the decryption key generated in said decryption key generation operation, and

a customizing operation of the second apparatus customizing the desired service for the current user according to the user information decrypted in said decryption operation.

37.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 36, wherein:

in said reading operation, if encrypted unique information is not stored in the locally connected recording medium or a recording medium is not locally connected to the first apparatus, the second apparatus does not read encrypted unique information from anywhere; and

in said service providing operation, if encrypted unique information has not been read in said reading operation, the second apparatus transmits the desired service to the first apparatus in an uncustomized state.

38.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 37, wherein:

the encrypted unique information stored in each recording medium is encrypted user information which is user information that is inherent to a user assigned the recording medium and which has been encrypted; and

in said service providing operation, the second apparatus customizes the desired service for the current user according to user information generated by decrypting the encrypted user information as the read encrypted unique information, and transmits the customized service to the first apparatus.

39.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 38, further comprising a user information updating operation, which is performed after said reading operation, of the second apparatus, if the user information inherent to the current user needs to be updated, updating the decrypted user information included in the read unique information and overwriting the encrypted user information in the locally connected recording medium based on the updated user information via the network and the first apparatus.

40.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 39, wherein in said user information updating operation, the second apparatus generates encrypted updated user information by encrypting the updated user information in a manner such that the encrypted updated user information can be decrypted by using the decryption key, and overwrites the encrypted user information in the locally connected recording medium with the updated and encrypted user information.

41.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 40, wherein:

the network is the Internet;

the first apparatus is an Internet terminal operable to run a specialized Internet browser;

each of the plurality of other apparatuses is a Web site;

the unique information includes cookie information used through the Internet browser; and

each recording medium stores the cookie information as a file.

42.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 37, wherein:

the unique information stored in each recording medium includes the media identifier of the recording medium;

the second apparatus stores user information so that user information inherent to each user is associated with the media identifier of the recording medium assigned to the user; and

said service providing operation includes

a user information finding operation of the second apparatus finding user information associated with the media identifier that has been read in said reading operation, and

a customizing operation of the second apparatus customizing the desired service for the current user according to the user information found in said user information finding operation.

43.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 36, further comprising a recording medium connection operation, which is performed before said service requesting operation, of locally connecting the first apparatus to the recording medium assigned to the current user.

44.   (Cancelled)

45.   (Currently Amended) The service providing method of ~~claim 44~~claim 43, wherein:

each recording medium includes a secure data area,

the media identifier of each recording medium is stored in the secure data area of the recording medium, and

said reading operation includes

a device authentication operation of performing a device authentication between the first apparatus and the locally connected recording medium, and

a reading prohibition operation of, if the device authentication performed in said device authentication operation has ended in failure, prohibiting the second apparatus from reading data from the secure data area of the locally connected recording medium.

46.   (Currently Amended) A service providing method used by a first apparatus operable to receive each service provided by a plurality of other apparatuses via a network and provide the received service to a current user of the first apparatus, wherein the first apparatus is able to communicate with each of the plurality of other apparatuses via the network and is locally connectable to a recording medium from among recording media that are uniquely assigned to users of the first apparatus, each recording medium has a media identifier as a unique identifier recorded thereon and is transportable, and each recording medium includes an area for storing unique information, said service providing method comprising:

a service requesting operation of the first apparatus requesting a second apparatus to provide a service desired by the current user, the second apparatus being one of the plurality of other apparatuses;

a first determining operation of the first apparatus determining whether a recording medium of the current user is locally connected to the first apparatus;

a second determining operation of the first apparatus determining whether a recording medium of the current user is locally connected to the first apparatus and stores unique information;

a transmitting operation of, if a recording medium of the current user is locally connected to the first apparatus, the first apparatus reading the media identifier in the locally connected recording medium and transmitting the read media identifier to the second apparatus via the network when the first apparatus determines in said first determining operation that the recording medium is locally connected thereto, and if a recording medium of the current user is locally connected to the first apparatus and stores unique information, the first apparatus reading the unique information in the locally connected recording medium and transmitting the read unique information to the second apparatus via the network when the first apparatus determines in said second determining operation that the recording medium is locally connected thereto and includes the unique information; and

a service providing operation of the first apparatus receiving a service that has been customized by the second apparatus from the second apparatus and providing the received service to the current user, wherein the second apparatus customizes the customized service by (i) generating a decryption key based on the media identifier that has been transmitted to the second apparatus in said transmitting operation, (ii) generating unique information by decrypting, by using the generated decryption key, the encrypted unique information that has been transmitted to the second apparatus, and (iii) customizing a desired service according to the generated unique information, wherein:

the encrypted unique information stored in each recording medium is encrypted user information that is inherent to a user assigned the recording medium, the user information having been encrypted;

said service providing operation includes a user password receiving operation of receiving a user password from the current user; and

the customized service that is received and provided in said service providing operation is generated at the second apparatus by generating a decryption key based on the media identifier transmitted in said transmitting operation and the user password received in said user password receiving operation, decrypting the encrypted user information included in the transmitted unique information using the generated decryption key, and customizing the desired service for the current user according to the decrypted user information.

47.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 46, wherein:

in said transmitting operation, if encrypted unique information is not stored in the locally connected recording medium or a recording medium is not locally connected to the first apparatus, the first apparatus does not read encrypted unique information from anywhere; and

in said service providing operation, if encrypted unique information is not transmitted in said transmitting operation, the first apparatus receives the desired service from the second apparatus in an uncustomized state and provides the received service to the current user.

48.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 47, wherein:

the encrypted unique information stored in each recording medium is encrypted user information which is user information that is inherent to a user assigned the recording medium and which has been encrypted and

in said service providing operation, the first apparatus receives the customized service from the second apparatus and provides the received service to the current user, wherein the second apparatus customizes the service by (i) generating the decryption key based on the media identifier transmitted to the second apparatus in said transmitting operation, (ii) generating user information by decrypting, using the generated decryption key, the encrypted user information which is the encrypted unique information that has been transmitted to the second apparatus in said transmitting operation, and (iii) customizing the desired service for the current user according to the generated user information.

49.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 48, further comprising a user information updating operation, which is performed after said transmitting operation, of the first apparatus, if the user information inherent to the current user needs to be updated, receiving information based on updated user information from the second apparatus and overwriting the encrypted user information in the locally connected recording medium with the updated user information.

50.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 49, wherein in said user information updating operation, the first apparatus receives, from the second apparatus, the updated user information that has been encrypted in a manner such that the encrypted updated user information can be decrypted by using the decryption key, and overwrites the encrypted user information in the locally connected recording medium with the updated user information.

51.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 50, wherein:
        the network is the Internet;
        the first apparatus is an Internet terminal operable to run a specialized Internet browser;
        each of the plurality of other apparatuses is a Web site;
        the unique information includes cookie information used through the Internet browser; and
        each recording medium stores the cookie information as a file.

52.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 47, wherein:
        the unique information stored in each recording medium includes the media identifier of the recording medium;

the second apparatus stores user information so that user information inherent to each user is associated with the media identifier of the recording medium assigned to the user; and

the customized service that is received and provided in said service providing operation is generated at the second apparatus by finding user information associated with the media identifier transmitted in said transmitting operation and customizing the desired service for the current user according to the found user information.

53.   (Previously Presented) The service providing method of claim 46, further comprising a recording medium connection operation, which is performed before said service requesting operation, of locally connecting the first apparatus to the recording medium assigned to the current user.

54.   (Cancelled)

55.   (Currently Amended) The service providing method of claim 54 claim 53, wherein:
        each recording medium includes a secure data area;
        the media identifier of each recording medium is stored in the secure data area of the recording medium; and
        said transmitting operation includes
                a device authentication operation of performing a device authentication between the first
                apparatus and the locally connected recording medium, and
a transmitting prohibition operation of, if the device authentication performed in said device authentication

operation has ended in failure, prohibiting the first apparatus from transmitting data to the secure data

area of the locally connected recording medium.

Allowable Subject Matter

3.   Claims 36-43, 45-53 and 55 are allowed over the prior art of record.

4.   The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is U.S. Patent Application Publication No. The closest prior art of

record is U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0010647 A1 to Peter Emmanuel Durham, U.S

Patent No. 5,917,913 to Ynjiun Wang and U.S. Patent No. 6,226,752 to Abhay Gupta et al. teach a

systems and methods for portable electronic authorization, authentication, and customization of

application access and utilization. The general states of all of the mentioned prior arts of records disclose

methods and systems to control access and provide customized data presentation based on the client profile or chosen preferences.

In regards to independent claims 36 and 46, the closest prior arts of record when taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fail to teach or suggest the steps of;

a first determining operation of the first apparatus determining whether a recording medium of the current user is locally connected to the first apparatus;

a second determining operation of the first apparatus determining whether a recording medium of the current user is locally connected to the first apparatus and stores encrypted unique information;

a reading operation of, the second apparatus reading the media identifier in the recording medium locally connected to the first apparatus via the first apparatus and the network when the first apparatus determines in said first determining operation that the recording medium is locally connected thereto, and the second apparatus reading the encrypted unique information in the recording medium locally connected to the first apparatus via the first apparatus and the network when the first apparatus determines in said second determining operation that the recording medium is locally connected thereto and stores the encrypted unique information; and

a service providing operation of the second apparatus (i) generating a decryption key based on the media identifier read in said reading operation, (ii) generating unique information by decrypting the encrypted unique information read in said reading operation by using the generated decryption key, (iii) customizing the desired service according to the generated unique information, and (iv) transmitting the customized service to the first apparatus, wherein:

the encrypted unique information stored in each recording medium is encrypted user information that is inherent to a user assigned the recording medium and has been encrypted; and

said service providing operation includes

a user password receiving operation of the second apparatus receiving a user password from the current user via the first apparatus,

a decryption key generating operation of the second apparatus generating a decryption key based on read media identifier read in said reading operation and the user password received in said user password receiving operation,

a decryption operation of the second apparatus decrypting the encrypted user information that has been read in said reading operation by using the decryption key generated in said decryption key generation operation, and

a customizing operation of the second apparatus customizing the desired service for the current user according to the user information decrypted in said decryption operation.

Claims 37-43 and 45 are dependent upon independent claim 36 and claims 47-53 and 55 are dependent upon claim 44, thus they all have the limitations of independent claims 36 and 45, therefore, they are allowable for that same reason stated above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kambiz Abdi whose telephone number is (703) 305-3364. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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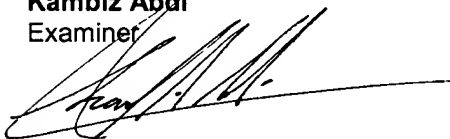Washington, D.C. 20231**

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(703) 746-7749 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

**Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive
7th floor receptionist, Arlington, VA, 22202**

Kambiz Abdi
Examiner

November 9, 2005